



Advisory
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DWR Declares Flood Alert

SACRAMENTO –Department of Water Resources (DWR) flood management officials today declared a Flood Alert. As a result, DWR will increase its watch on river and levee conditions as rain continues this week across much of the state and releases are increased from many reservoirs.

A Flood Alert increases flood information distribution, requires notification calls in response to river forecasts, and signals a readiness to facilitate flood fight efforts. Staffing at DWR's Flood Operations Center will also move to extended hours. The Flood Alert status will be reevaluated each afternoon.

Water levels are expected to surpass flood stage on the Sacramento River at Tehama Bridge south of Red Bluff by midnight and reach flood stage at Ord Ferry, near Chico, by tomorrow morning. Monitor stages will be in effect at many points on the Sacramento River for the next couple of days.

Releases from Lake Oroville, currently at 18,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), will be increased starting at 3:00 p.m. today and are expected to reach 30,000 cfs by 7:00 p.m. Outflows from other major reservoirs, including Shasta and Folsom (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), are also expected to be increased.

Three of DWR's four passive weirs (Colusa, Tisdale and Fremont) are flowing according to their design to relieve pressure on the Sacramento River's banks and levees. Moulton Weir should begin flowing early tomorrow morning. The Sacramento Weir, which has 48 manually operated gates, is not utilized until the "I" Street gage is at 27.5 feet and rising. As of 1:30 p.m. today, the gage was at 23.2 feet.

Other areas of interest include: the Cosumnes River, where monitor stage is occurring at Michigan Bar and expected at McConnell this afternoon; the Mokelumne River, where Bensons Ferry is expected to reach monitor stage this afternoon; the Tuolumne River, where monitor state is expected at Modesto by tomorrow morning; and, the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Delta, where tides at Rio Vista are above monitor stage now and expected to return with tomorrow morning's high-high tide.

Snow levels in the Sierra are above 6,000 feet today but expected to drop to 4,000 to 5,000 feet tomorrow and to 3,500 feet by Wednesday.

Information on weather and flood conditions is available through DWR's Flood Operations Center at (916) 574-2619.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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